

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05595 031237Z

64

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2283

INFO JCS WASH DC

/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5595

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO, TH

SUBJ: SEATO SEATEX-53 EXERCISE

REF: JCS 280318Z FEB 75

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN REFERENCE MESSAGE U.S. MILADREP INFORMED SEATO THAT USG PREFERRED AT-SEA PORTION OF SEATEX-53 BE HELD IN THE LESS RESTRICTIVE WATERS OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. SEATO PLANNERS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS ASPECT BUT CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THE GULF OF THAILAND FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: (1) SEATO WISHES TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONAL MEMBERS BY ALTERNATING NAVAL EXERCISES BETWEEN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND THE GULF OF THAILAND; (2) THE SHALLOWER WATERS OF THE GULF OF THAILAND ARE NOT NECESSARILY RESTRICTIVE FOR SEA SURVEILLANCE AS THEY WOULD BE FOR ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE OPERATIONS; AND, (3) THE USG IS THE ONLY MEMBER WHO HAS SUGGESTED RELOCATION OF SEATEX-53. ALSO, IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT ELEMENTS OF U.S. SEVENTH FLEET CONDUCT FREQUENT BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISES TO INCLUDE ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE (SEASIAM SERIES) WITH ROYAL THAI NAVY IN THE GULF OF THAILAND.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT SEATO HAS A VALID POINT VIS-A-VIS THE SCHEDULING OF THESE NAVAL EXERCISES BETWEEN THE REGIONAL MEMBERS AND THAT THE USG SHOULD ACQUIESCE IN THE LOCATION
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 05595 031237Z

OF AT-SEA PORTION TO THE GULF OF THAILAND.

MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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